

Message

From: Ferrell, Mark [Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov]
Sent: 7/15/2021 3:22:23 PM
To: phil_hancock@manchin.senate.gov
Subject: Fw: EPA News: EPA orders Clarksburg to identify homes, businesses with lead service lines

Phil, to answer your question, this is a statewide announcement and not part of any larger national messaging initiative.

~Mark

This news release was distributed today to media throughout West Virginia and is posted in the EPA Newsroom. Here is the link: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-orders-clarksburg-identify-homes-businesses-lead-service-lines>



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EPA orders Clarksburg to identify homes, businesses with lead service lines

PHILADELPHIA (July 15, 2021) – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued an emergency administrative order this afternoon directing the Clarksburg Water Board to identify homes and businesses with lead service lines and provide an alternate source of drinking water or filters certified to remove lead to all customers who may be impacted by the lead exposure. EPA, in coordination with the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR), determined this action necessary to protect public health after determining that conditions in the Clarksburg water system may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to human health.

The EPA order directs the Water Board to immediately identify homes that may be impacted and provide an alternate source of drinking water and/or point-of-use filters certified for lead removal for homeowners where elevated lead levels are known or where lead service lines exist.

Additionally, the Water Board must provide EPA with a copy of its notification to the Clarksburg homeowners indicating the steps being taken to reduce lead exposure and that an alternate water supply has been made available or that certified filters were provided. The Water Board must also keep a daily log of which homes have received alternative water or certified filters.

According to the order, the Water Board failed to timely notify the public about the risk of lead exposure as required in a previous order issued by the WVDHHR on July 2. EPA's order reinforces the state's efforts, as well as re-affirming deadlines for actions to be performed by the Water Board.

The WVDHHR issued a notice of violation on July 14 citing the Water Board for failing to comply with its July 2 order. The order and press release, which includes links to the notice of violation and WVDHHR's administrative order can be found here:

<https://dhhr.wv.gov/News/2021/Pages/DHHR-Issues-Notice-of-Violation-to-Clarksburg-Water-Board.aspx>

The issue of lead service lines was first identified by staff in the WVDHHR's Bureau for Public Health's Childhood Lead Prevention Program during environmental lead assessments conducted at the homes of children diagnosed with elevated blood lead levels. Drinking water sampling in several homes confirmed lead levels were above the EPA's action level.

